

I recently learned that Sinclair Broadcasting has decided to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. I must say that this is a clear example of not only illegal use of the public airways but is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This action reminds me of state control of the media in the former soviet union. What kind of democracy do we live in when large media conglomerates are allowed to play such partisan politics?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.